

# **KEEP COOL BUGS TIMBER SALE**

April 17, 2006 Land Board

## **Location of Sale:**

- Clearwater Unit (SWLO) – Approximately 3 air miles east of Lincoln, Montana.
- Lewis & Clark County – Section 10, T14N-R8W

## **Sale Volume & Estimated Value:**

- The estimated sale volume is 9,454 tons (1,477 MBF) with an estimated minimum bid value of \$249,586.00.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, \$2.54/ton will be charged for Forest Improvement on all merchantable timber harvested, both green and dead.
- 6.4 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

## **Sale Size and Harvest Treatments:**

- The sale totals 192 acres.
- **This is a salvage sale.** The primary objective is to remove dead or dying timber that has been attacked by mountain pine beetles using a salvage harvest and overstory removal. This proposed harvest would promote and maintain timber types that were historically present on site, as well as promote future growth.
- There is no old growth.

## **Harvest Systems:**

- 100% tractor

## **Road Construction:**

- Approximately 0.5 miles of new road construction is required. Remaining access to the sale area is across existing roads. Roads will be constructed/reconstructed to meet current BMPs.

## **Public Involvement & Issues:**

- Public involvement was solicited through legal notices published in the Blackfoot Valley Dispatch. Letters were sent to adjacent landowners and other known interested parties and organizations. The public, DNRC specialists and specialists from other organizations helped identify the issues that were analyzed. The main issues of concern are forest health, grizzly bears, and road use/access.

## **Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations:**

- **Forest Health** – The action is primarily designed to salvage stands that are currently under attack by mountain pine beetle along with approximately 38 acres of overstory removal. The changes made through the treatments are expected to improve overall forest health and growth in these stands, as well as potentially reduce the area of the infestation.
- **Grizzly Bear** – This timber sale would have limited harvest seasons to reduce impacts to grizzly bears. No spring season activity would be permitted. If needed

a second harvest season would be delineated after consultation with the department wildlife biologist. Where applicable, harvest units have been designed to retain vegetative screening along existing roads, in other areas a 33 foot wide no cut zone would be utilized for screening. All new roads would be gated and posted. Harvest prescriptions call for leaving Douglas-fir in clumps and/or scattered single trees to provide limited cover. This project would potentially limit the spread of the mountain pine beetle infestation, thereby preserving the remaining hiding cover (live trees) on this section.

- **Road Use/Access** – Due to existing roads that come from adjoining land and a high level of public use, access to the project area will not be gated, but all new roads would be gated.

**The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Keep Cool Bugs Timber Sale.**

# WILDERNESS

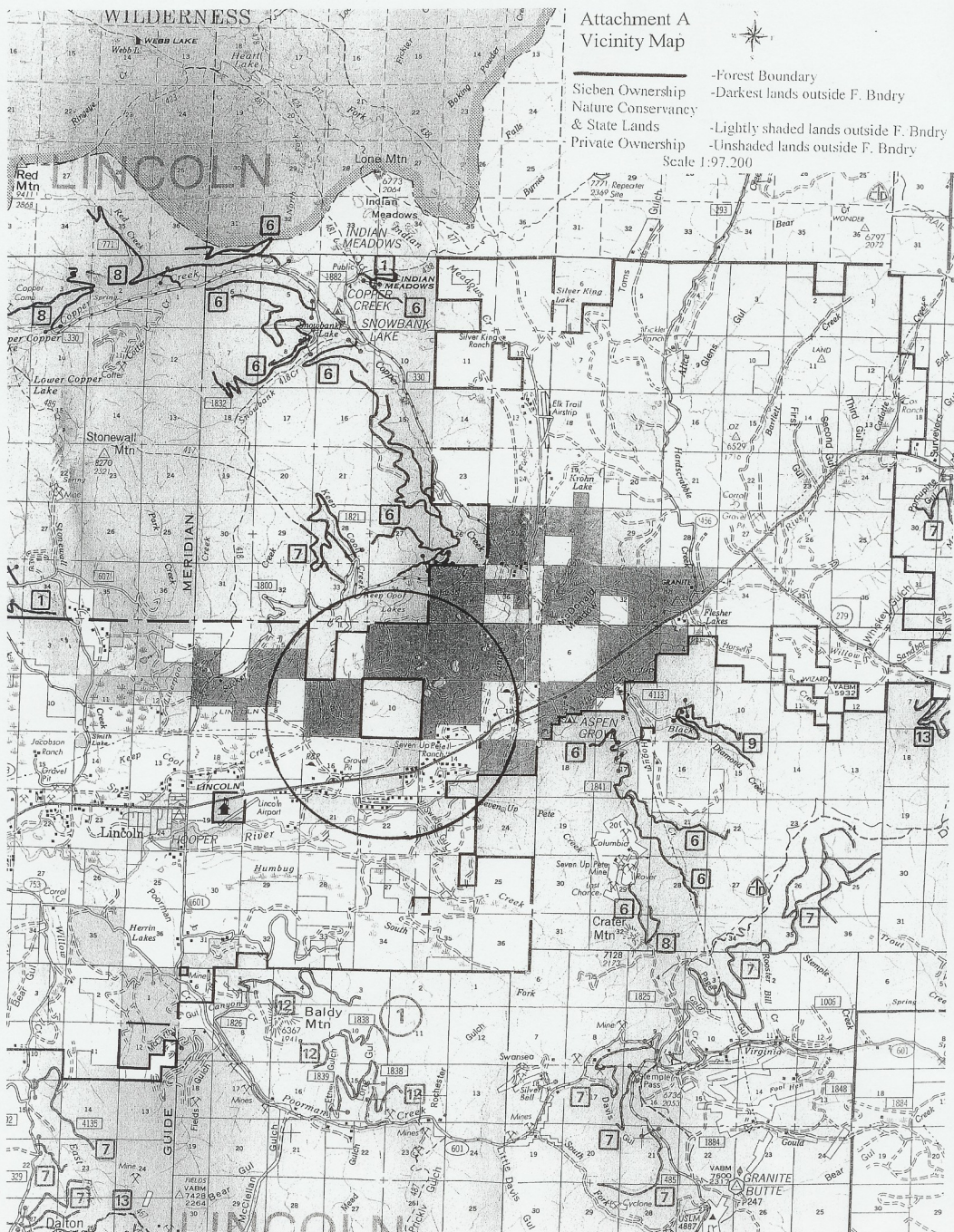
## Attachment A Vicinity Map



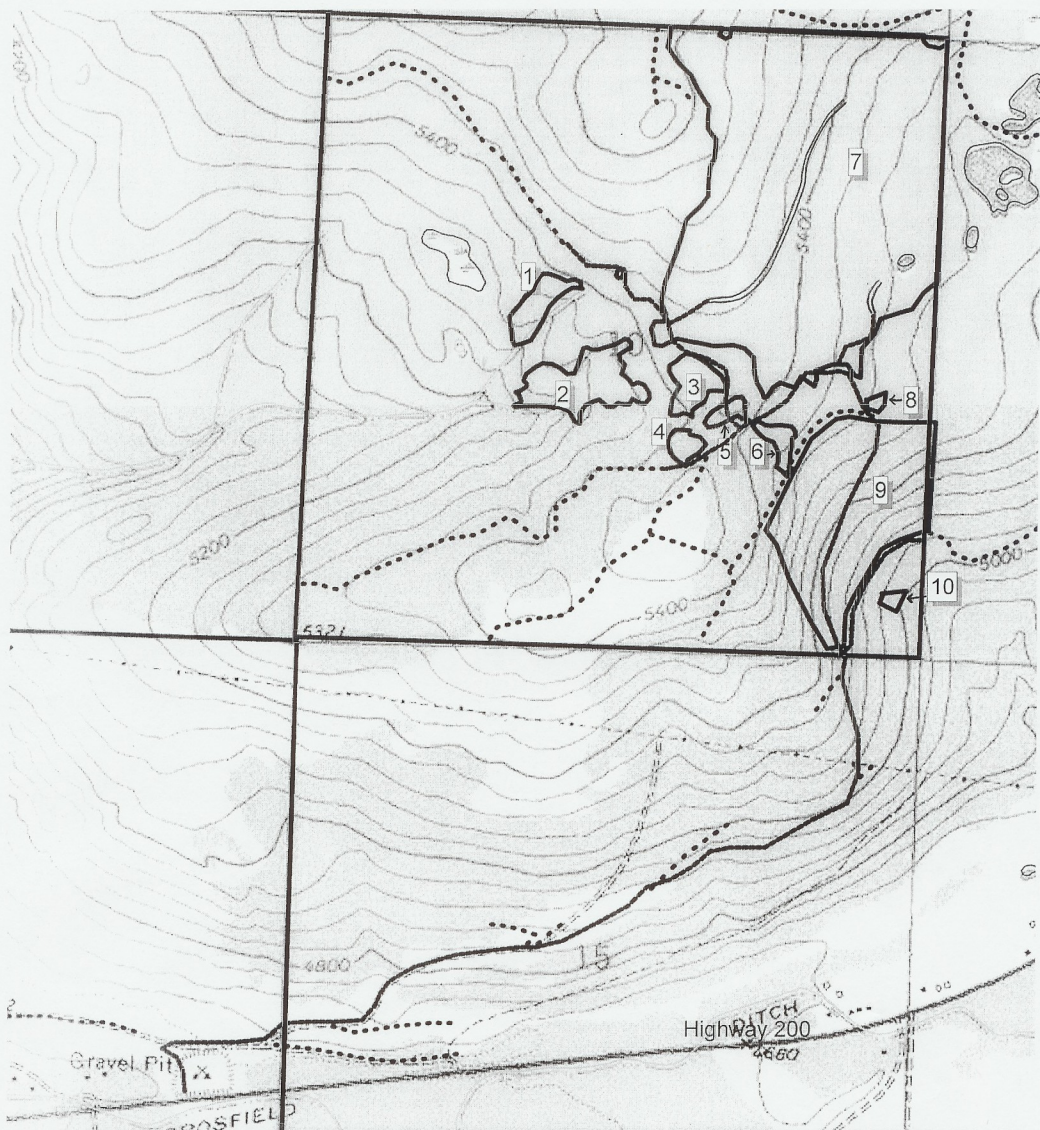
Sieben Ownership  
Nature Conservancy  
& State Lands  
Private Ownership

- Forest Boundary
- Darkest lands outside F. Bndry
- Lightly shaded lands outside F. Bndry
- Unshaded lands outside F. Bndry

Scale 1:97,200







Keep Cool Bugs Sale Map - Attachment A, Sec. 10, T14N, R8W

2022

State ownership

Harvest units

Haul roads

Other spur roads

New road construction

2640

0

2640 Feet

